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BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW COTTON RAT (SIGMODON) FROM ARIZONA
AND NEW MEXICO.

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Specimens of cotton rats obtained in March, 1940, in the Huachuca Mountains of Arizona make possible the recognition of an heretofore undescribed race of *Sigmodon ochrognathus* Bailey ranging in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico.

Sigmodon ochrognathus montanus, new subspecies.

Type.—Male adult, skin and skull, no. 92287 Mus. Vert. Zool., collected at Peterson's Ranch (also called Sylvania), 6100 ft., Huachuca Mountains, 2 miles north of Sunnyside, Cochise County, Arizona, on March 15, 1940, by Seth B. Benson, original number 6649.

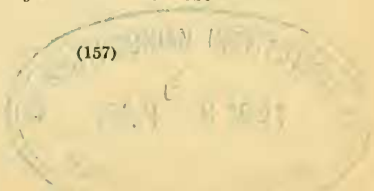
Distribution.—Known only from the Huachuca Mountains in Arizona and the Animas Valley in New Mexico, but probably also occurring in suitable habitats in the adjacent area.

Diagnosis.—A race of *Sigmodon ochrognathus* characterized by a sharply bicolored tail, hairs on inside of pinnae of ears tipped with yellowish, yellowish feet, small audital bullae, large ears. In *S. o. ochrognathus* the tail is only indistinctly bicolor, the hairs on the pinnae of the ears and on the feet are grayish, and the audital bullae are more inflated, the ears slightly smaller.

Color (Capitalized color terms after Ridgway, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, 1912).—Dorsal surface grizzled gray tinged with yellowish ranging from Pale Ochraceous-Buff mid-dorsally to Ochraceous-Buff on flanks and rump. Belly hairs white-tipped. Basal portions of hairs Blackish Plumbeous. Nose and distinct ring around eyes Light Ochraceous-Buff. Tail sharply bicolor for most of its length, tipped with black. Hairs on dorsal surface of tail black, on ventral surface Light Ochraceous-Buff. Dorsal stripe on tail strongly accentuated by dark skin pigments. Hairs on inside of ears black, tipped with Light Ochraceous-Buff. Ear tufts Light Ochraceous-Buff. Feet tinged with Light Ochraceous-Buff.

The color in *S. o. montanus* is richer than in *S. o. ochrognathus* and is most evident on the ears and feet.

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Measurements.—Two young adult males (type and a paratype, respectively): Total length, 233, 236; tail, 100, 106; hind foot, 28, 28; ear from notch, 18, 18; ear from crown, 14, 14; weight in grams, 73.1, 76.3; basal length, 27.8, 27.0; nasals, 11.3, 11.4; zygomatic breadth, 18.7, 17.7; mastoid breadth, 13.0, 13.0; alveolar length of upper molar series, 5.8, 5.9.

Specimens examined.—Total number, 7, as follows: *Huachuca Mountains, Cochise County, Arizona*: Peterson's Ranch, 6100 feet, 2 miles north of Sunnyside, 5; Head of Miller Canyon, 8400 feet, 1. *Animas Valley Hidalgo County, New Mexico*: 4 miles northwest of San Luis Pass, 5200 feet, 1.

Remarks.—Four of the specimens from the Huachuca Mountains and one from Animas Valley were tentatively referred to *Sigmodon hispidus cienegae* by Hall and Davis (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 47, February 9, 1934, p. 54). They pointed out the differences in color between the young specimens and *S. h. cienegae*, but did not name the variant because the immaturity of the specimens made it possible that the observed characters were not significant from a systematic standpoint. Actually, the young specimens are specifically distinct from *S. hispidus*. I visited the Huachuca Mountains to obtain adult specimens of the yellow-nosed cotton rats, and the Chisos Mountains of Texas for topotypes of *Sigmodon ochrognathus*, which had been described as a yellow-nosed species, to compare with the Arizona specimens. In spite of the strong geographic isolation between the two populations, and the differences in characters noted above, the populations are so similar in most features that it seems best to consider them as only subspecifically distinct.

The species *S. ochrognathus* has been recorded from only a few localities. Bailey (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 15, June 2, 1902, p. 115) recorded it from the Chisos Mountains, Texas, and from near Parral, Chihuahua. Blair (Misc. Publ., Mus. Zool., Univ. Michigan, no. 46, June 28, 1940, p. 32) recorded the species from the Davis Mountains of Texas. To my knowledge these are the only records for the species. Therefore, the records for New Mexico and Arizona are new and indicate a much more extensive distribution for this species than was formerly known.